The Government of Bangladesh have reiterated their commitment to the safety and security of all communities and have stated categorically that firm action would be taken to protect the minorities and to punish the perpetrators of violence against them. The Government of Bangladesh allocated Taka 40 lakhs for Durga Puja celebrations and Ministers were directed to visit their constituencies to restore confidence amongst the minorities. Recently, the Government of Bangladesh have set up a special committee headed by the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to enquire into these attacks.

Harrasment of Minorities in Bangladesh

516. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of harassment of the minorities in Bangladesh;

(b) the number of people who have migrated / shifted to India as a result of such harassment;

(c) whether Government would allow such people to remain in India and help their settlement here;

(d) whether the Bangladesh Government have assured safety of minorities in Bangladesh; and

(e) if so, how far they have implemented such assurance?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House. *[Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 515. J*

Indian killed in WTC Attack

517. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 5000 Indians were working at the World Trade Centre USA which was attaked by the terrorist;

(b) if so, the number of Indians who have been killed in the attacks in US;

(c) whether the US Government have also supplied the list of the Indians killed;

(d) whether Indian had also protested to the US Government on attacks on Sikh community in US; and